

Heber Regional Family History Center

Those who were working at the East Stake Center:
Dr. Raymond Green, Dr. Whiting and Florine Whiting, Irene Tisdale, Lona Ford, Minnie Carlile, and Ruby Giles were the original workers when we opened the F H C. This was September 1978. We were in one of the clerks offices at the Stake Center. Very small space.
Dr. Green and Irene Tisdale started the Obituary File in this room. Some one from Center Creek had passed away and left some large scrapbooks. They had a lot of old obituaries in them. Their children were not interested in them and were going to toss them. Dr Green asked if he could have them and they gave them to him. Dr. Green and Irene took little hospital bath tubs filled with water and floated those obituaries off and put them on paper towels to dry. Then we put them in three ring binders and made a list of all the ones we had. Later Erma Wade and someone else kept the obituaries from Wasatch, Summit, and Duchesne Counties for the file. Duchesne and Uintah Counties were settled mostly by people from Wasatch and Summit Counties.
Dr. Green was our Director at this time, with Florine Whiting and Minnie Carlile as our instructors. Our hours were week day nights from 5:00 to 9:00 P.M. We were under the direction of the Heber Stake. I think Pres. Reed Ford had a lot to do with our getting a center going here. I think he worked with Dr. Green to make it happen.

I'm sorry if I have left anyone out!

In the fall of 1979 we moved from the East Stake Center to the Seminary Building at the Jr. High School

We had several new people come in at this time. There was Clyde Muir, Sharon Thornton, Erma Wade, and several others. I can't remember all their names. Clyde Muir became our director and Sharon Thornton became our trainer along with Daniel and Mary Balldsteadt. Sharon had worked at the BYU FHC and was really a good trainer. After February of 1980 we shared the building with the German Extractors. There was plenty of room. We also got a new copy machine and microfilm and microfiche readers while we were in this building. At this time we were under the direction of the Heber Stake. There were others that worked with us at this time. While we were in this building we started to work from 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. weekdays. We also were open some evenings from 6:00 to 9:00. While we were here we got our first computer, a little Epson and could get the Ancestral File on discs. Then we started to get other discs from the church and I think the next ones were the Social Security Index file. We were really busy with the Ancestral File that patrons could print out for themselves. I don't remember if we got the International Genealogical Index while we were still at the Seminary Building. We could type in our own Personal

Ancestral file, save it on a disk. It was a real learning process. Most of us had never sat down at a computer before this time. If the workers wanted to use the computer they had to come in and do their work during the hours we were closed. It was wonderful. This was in 1991. What a neat thing to be able to put all this information on a disk and keep it so we could add to it at anytime.

Our move to Midway

When we moved to Midway, at 160 West Main Street. The German Extraction Program also shared this building. The FHC was able to get on the internet and do a lot of research, thanks to John Probst. He gave us four brand new computers and paid for our internet hookups. What a blessing that was to the center. The church also furnished new computers.

Sharon Thornton then became our director and our trainer.

After Sharon left, Irene Tisdale became director and she felt that the Priesthood should be in charge, so she asked if we could have a Priesthood holder be director. We were under the direction of the Midway Stake at this time and President Stone said he would try to find someone.

That is when Homer LeBaron became the director with Irene as assistant director. I think at this time we had about thirty two volunteers. We had a good staff.

Our next director was Ellis Allred. Keith Thomas was the computer specialist. He tried to keep all the computers running. Iris Eaton was one of the trainers. She was really an organizer.

Our Director now is Robert Wren, with an assistant from all four stakes. Assistant director for Heber Stake is Iris Eaton.

Assistant director for Heber East Stake is David Rimmington.

Assistant director for Heber North Stake is Harry Zane.

Assistant director for Midway Stake is Irene Tisdale.

Those who have helped with the Obituary Files and Funeral Program files are: Dr. Green, Irene Tisdale, Sharon Thornton, Erma Wade, Fern Sabey, Jane Meeks, Frenna Mayo, Lois Mahoney, and many others. Mary Jane Wood went through the old Wasatch Waves from the beginning until 1905. She got all the obituaries for both Wasatch and Summit Counties. She had to retype most of them, but they are very essential to the collection. They are in a separate file of two binders and are all indexed. A fellow brought a book of old obituaries from the Wave to school and asked Loretta Fillmore if she could copy them for him. She told him she would if he would let her have a copy for the FHC and he agreed, so she brought in a copy of them, Jane Meeks put them in a long binder and they are indexed. There are more people who have worked on the Obituary file, but I can't remember right now who they are. ReNae Cook is one who has helped Lois Mahoney a lot.

In 2002 for the Olympics we set up a Family Search room in the recreation hall of the building. We had several computers in there for people to look up their family roots.

A local artist, Linda Curley Christensen painted three pictures for the Olympics for our Family Search classes. The Midway Stake bought beautiful frames for them and they are now in possession of the Midway Stake.

After the Olympics were over and the German Extraction Program was over, because we started Indexing on computers at home, that room was turned into a FH training room. We had 12 computers and Jennie Clawsen taught Personal Ancestral File classes. She is still teaching those classes in our new building.

Harry Zane taught PAF insight and we found it was really a good source to get us ready for Temple Ready.

When our building was sold to Midway City we were moved back to the Heber East Stake Center until our present building was ready for us to move into. We are now located in the old Heber Fourth Ward building. I think this will be our permanent home.